

U.S. Application No. 09/870,286  
AMENDMENT B

Attorney Docket: 3926.029

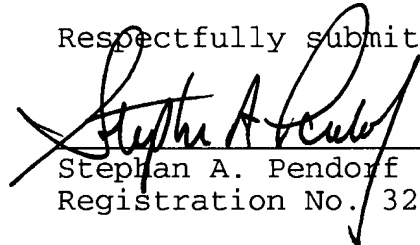
**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 14, 22, 26 and 27 are allowed.

In order to expedite allowance, Applicants cancel the remaining independent claim (claim 13), and amend the dependencies of the claims 15-21 and 23-25 to depend ultimately from allowed independent claim 14.

The application being in condition for allowance, early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephan A. Pendorf  
Registration No. 32,665

PENDORF & CUTLIFF  
P.O. Box 20445  
Tampa, Florida 33622-0445  
(813) 886-6085

Date: **July 19, 2004**

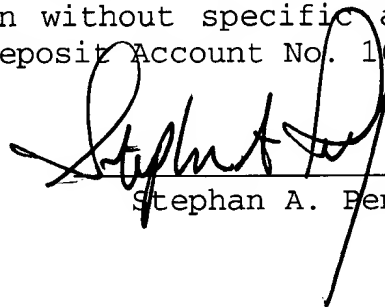
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**CERTIFICATION OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing AMENDMENT B for U.S. Application No.: 09/870,286 filed May 30, 2001, was deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, addressed: ATTN: Mail Stop: **AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **July 19, 2004**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.

  
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Stephan A. Bendorf